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A METHOD TO PRESERVE PEACH AND NECTARINE TREES; TO DESTROY THE RED SPIDER IN MELON FRAMES, INSECTS IN STOVES, TREES, AND SHRUBS, IN GARDENS.

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A

METHOD

TO PRESERVE

PEACH AND NECTARINE TREES from the Effects of THE MILDEW;

And for deſtroying the

RED SPIDER in MELON FRAMES, and OTHER INSECTS, which infeſt PLANTS in STOVES, and TREES, SHRUBS, &c. in the Open Garden.

By ROBERT BROWNE,

Gardener to Sir HARBORD HARBORD, Bart. at Gunton, in Norfolk.

LONDON:

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MDCCLXXXVI.

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MVSEVM
BRITAN
NICVM

TO

Sir H. Harbord, Bart.

SIR,

THE situation I have the honour of being in as a 4 your

your ſervant makes it in me a matter of duty, as well as of inclination, to beg you would take the following ſheets under your protection, and permit me to offer to you the reſult of ſome

ſome years labour and experience in my profeſſion as a Gardener. I flatter myſelf, that by the means propoſed in the few adjoining pages, any gardener belonging to my worthy ſubſcribers,

bers, or ſuch as may hereafter be engaged in your ſervice, will be able, by following the ſubſequent directions, to keep their ſtoves and fruit trees in as healthy and flouriſhing a condition

tion, as it has been my good fortune and happineſs to have thoſe, which you have entruſted to my care. The extenſiveneſs of your garden, and the encouragement you gave to my making any

any experiments, afforded me an opportunity of trying several different methods: from the most accurate observations I could make, the only effectual method of obtaining the proposed

 purposes

purpoſes is here made public, and honeſtly and plainly laid before you. The ſimpleneſs of the compoſition, and the eaſe of the manner of applying it, will not, I hope, make it appear un-

worthy

worthy of notice; and though I think that I may venture to anſwer for the utility of this liquor, when it is applied in proper time, yet much of the advantage to be expected from it de-

pends

pends upon a conſtant and early attention to the ſtate and condition of the plants and trees. But, if it ſhould in any one inſtance fail, I truſt that, in candour, a trial of it will be repeated, as it may be

done with ſo little trouble or expence. I have the honour of being with great reſpect,

SIR,

Your moſt obedient and dutiful ſervant,

ROBT. BROWNE.

Gunton,
April 20, 1786.

A CERTIFICATE
OF THE EFFICACY
Of Mr. ROBERT BROWNE's RECEIPT.

WE, the underwritten, do hereby certify, That, for the laſt two Summers, we have obſerved and examined the Fruit Trees under the Care of ROBERT BROWNE, Gardener, at Gunton, in Norfolk, and are convinced, or do verily believe, that the Means and Method uſed by him for preventing the Mildew, deſtroying the Red Spider and Inſects—particularly the Red Spider on Melon

Plants—is perfectly effectual, which is done by an eaſy and reaſonable Application.

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THE METHOD OF PRESERVING PEACH TREES, MELONS, PLANTS, AND SHRUBS, &c.

FOR the preſervation of peach and nectarine trees from

the effects of the mildew, which every one knows to be very hurtful, and almoſt pernicious to thoſe plants, and, of courſe, to their fruits; I have found the following method to be very

ſuc-

ſucceſsful; and as the compoſition employed in it is far from being expenſive, I hope it may prove of general uſe, which is the principal reaſon that induced me to make it public. But, firſt of

all, it will be neceſ-
ſary, that a ſtrict at-
tention be given to
thoſe plants ſo as not
to ſuffer the mildew
to get too much hold
before the application
is begun. It will, in-
deed, put a ſtop to its
increaſe

increaſe in any ſtage of it; but if applied early, or at the beginning of the infection, it will not only ſecure the health of the plant for the immediate purpoſe of fruiting, but prevent

the branches from loſing their lead, in order to their throwing out their ſhoots; for among the leaves in the lead of the branches, it is always obſerved to make its firſt appearance.

Take

Take a pound of ſoft ſoap, and add to it three pints of ſoft water a little warmed; then, in a large pot, work it about with a whiſk till the ſoap is perfectly diſſolved; put it then into an-

other pot, the ſides of which muſt be deep, but not very wide; and ſtir into it a pound of flowers of ſulphur, which muſt be done gradually to make it incorporate thoroughly, or with-

out

out lumping. Add to this, a pint of liquor, made from the aſhes of aſh-wood, if convenient; if not, from brakes. The aſhes muſt be well burnt; and if they are kept in a dry place

a few days before they are uſed, they will be ſtill better. In preparing the liquor, to four quarts of aſhes add eight quarts of ſoft water, two ounces of tobacco, and half a pound of

un-

unſlaked lime. Boil theſe ingredients together very gently over a ſteady fire, for two hours, ſtirring them well every eight or ten minutes. When it is cool enough, paſs it through a ſtrainer;

after

after ſtraining, keep it covered up in a cool place for uſe.

You muſt be very cautious in applying this liquor, particularly early in the ſeaſon, while the branch-

es

es are young and tender. A ſoft brush, in the form of a painter's, will be moſt proper for that purpoſe. You muſt take care to ſtir it in the pot every time you uſe it, to prevent the ſulphur from

from ſettling to the bottom. When the branches are grown long enough, ſo that you may hold them in your hand, you may dip them carefully into the pot as far in the liquor as

you

you ſee neceſſary for a ſmall ſpace of time. Let them remain unwaſhed for two or three days, in that time the liquor will have taken its full effect. As ſoon as you perceive the leaves

that were ſtruck with the mildew ſhrivelled, and the young leaves at the lead of the branches to look green and inclinable to grow, then give them a good waſhing with com-

mon

mon water, and nail them to the wall.

I have always found this method effectually to anſwer my wiſhes, both in preſerving the wood, and making the trees look

bright and healthy. There is nothing more diſagreeable to the eye than to ſee in a ſpacious well-deſigned garden good walls and bad trees. I have frequently ſeen peaches and nectarines ſo much damaged,

damaged, that they have been quite ſtagnated the whole ſeaſon by the mildew alone; which is a mortifying ſight to every one who takes pleaſure in a garden, and in thoſe fruits eſpecially which

are generally eſteemed among its choiceſt productions. If you keep your borders in good order by proper dunging and tilling, and by thoſe means preſerve your trees in a free ſtate of growth,

you

you will find it of great ſervice both a-gainſt inſects and other pernicious enemies. I alſo ſtrongly recommend the keeping your ſummer ſhoots thin and clear of ſide branches, ſo that there

may be a free admiſ-
ſion of ſun and air:
you will ſee the good
effect of this in
the ſucceeding ſpring.
When your wood is
ſtrong and well-ripen-
ed, you may depend
upon it much more

at the time of the fruit's ſetting.

I forbear to ſay any thing more about the further treatment of theſe plants, as that may be ſupplied from other authors; I ſhall

therefore proceed to the neceſſary directions for deſtroying the red ſpiders.

The ſame liquor will anſwer that purpoſe, by only adding to it one third more of

of the ſulphur. They muſt be watched with great attention very early in the ſpring, eſpecially if that ſeaſon ſets in fine and warm; for then you will find them very induſtrious in depriving

ing

ing your trees of their beauty. You muſt not fail to look them over very carefully every other day, and to dreſs them at the ſame time where you make the leaſt diſcovery of thoſe inſects: only

only obſerve, before you apply your liquor, to beat it up well with the bruſh till it is nothing but froth at the top. By applying that freely to them, you will entirely deſtroy them: the more of

the

the froth you leave about them, the more certain will be the effect.

You must also examine the walls very strictly, in fine sunshiny days particular-

ly, as they are very fond of heat, and of expoſing themſelves to it; beſides, their webs are ſo fine, that they are not very eaſily perceived, except in bright clear weather. In thoſe webs you will

will obſerve an innu-
merable multitude of
ſmall white dots, which
are their eggs or ſeed,
from whence they are
produced. At the
time of dreſſing, you
muſt be careful not to
ſuffer any of them to
remain

remain upon the place where the web is fixed, as they will ſoon increaſe in hot ſummers; and, by neglect or want of proper attention, will multiply ſo faſt, that it will require twice the time

and

and twice the quantity of the mixture to deſtroy them. The ſureſt way, therefore, is to curb them in their firſt attempts. You muſt always take care to beat the mixture well to a good froth;

for

for ſo ſure as that froth intangles them, ſo ſure they are entirely either deſtroyed or baniſhed from the place. The trees which have been infeſted with theſe inſects ſhould not be

waſhed before they are deſtroyed: then you may proceed to waſhing, which you muſt repeat every two or three days till you perceive the trees begin to change their colour; for wherever they

they fix themſelves, they alter the natural colour of the leaves to a dark brown, and cauſe them to curl up. When you obſerve they have damaged your trees, after giving them a good dreſſing,

you muſt take care to waſh them over the firſt time with a mixture of two or three gallons of water to two or three quarts of the liquor; which is beſt done by ſprinkling them over with a

ſmall

ſmall watering pot through a fine roſe, fixing yourſelf ſo as to have the command of the top of the plant, that all parts of it may be waſhed alike.

You will find this method very ſerviceable in forcing peaches and nectarines: but there muſt be no time loſt in the application; for, by one day's neglect, your trees will be disfigured very much.

You

You muſt alſo be attentive to your fruit about the time it is half-grown; for in hot foggy weather the mildew will ſeize the fruit, as well as the branches; and, if not checked very ſoon,

will be as hurtful as a wound, prevent the fruit from ſwelling, and deprive it of its rich flavour. It requires a very ſtrict inſpection of your fruit to diſcover the mildew upon it in due time.

When

When you are appre-
henſive of it, be care-
ful to examine your
fruit on the upper
ſide, where it moſt
frequently ſeizes them
firſt, and has the ap-
pearance of a ſmall
white ſpeck. The

liquor

liquor muſt then be applied, as directed before, immediately; for if it be ſuffered to remain two or three days, you may give up all hopes of bringing your fruit to perfection. Two or three

ſtrokes

ſtrokes with the bruſh over the place will be ſufficient. It might be imagined this would give the fruit a taſte of the liquor; but it is quite otherwiſe: for by refreſhing ſhowers, or well waſhing, the

fruits

fruits will be as clear and as well flavoured as thoſe that never were infected.

About the time of the fruit's ſetting, there is commonly a great number of inſects upon

on

on peaches and nectarines, which may be eaſily deſtroyed by the liquor, though it be but of half the ſtrength; for, being then in their firſt ſtate of infancy, they are very weak and tender.

Always

Always remembering to keep the liquor well ſtirred, you muſt apply it with the bruſh, and take care to dreſs the under-ſide of the leaves well, for, by laying it on pretty freely, one dreſſing will

will be ſufficient, which muſt remain four or five days before the trees are waſhed.

This method is much leſs expenſive than the uſe of to-

bacco-duſt, dry ſul-
phur, or Scotch ſnuff;
and I am certain doth
not take more than
half the time. It
may be practiſed very
ſafely upon all plants
and ſpecies of inſects,
by making the liquor
ſtronger

ſtronger or weaker, according to the nature of the inſects: for I am convinced, by experience, if the rules here laid down for its application be duly obſerved, it is univerſally deſtructive

to the whole tribe of them.

I proceed to point out a proper method of deſtroying the red ſpider in melon plants. Theſe are very tender plants, and will not bear

bear any thing very ſtrong or ſharp; nor does the red ſpider always ſeize them at one age. They muſt be cautiouſly attended to, and frequently examined on the under ſide of the leaves, for

there they are gene-
rally firſt diſcovered;
though ſometimes I
have ſeen them in
fine clear days, on
their firſt approach,
ſporting about the
plants and the frame;
but if they once get

their

their pernicious webs fixed, they conceal themſelves, and do not quit that place for ſome time. If you perceive them before they have made their web, get a little ſulphur and Scotch ſnuff,

and mix them well together: about two ounces of ſnuff to half a pound of ſulphur, the whole quantity in proportion to your number of lights. A very little will ſuffice for each light.

light. Then take and ſtrew it, as regularly as you can, over the ſurface of the bed. This will drive them immediately from the bed to the plant. When this is done, you muſt then make

uſe of the following preparation, obſerving to forbear watering if your plants do not require it.

Take a pound of ſoft ſoap, and put it into a bowl or pan; get

get three quarts of ſoft water, and after warming it over the fire, put it gradually to the ſoap, and continue beating it about with a whiſk, till you find it thoroughly diſſolved: at the ſame

time

time put in one pound of ſulphur, and beat the whole well together; then take a ſoft bruſh in the form of thoſe that are uſual for cleaning plate; ſtir your liquor well, and, dipping in your bruſh,

bruſh, take as much of it as will conveniently hang to the bruſh; then, holding up the leaf with your hand, ſtroke the bruſh carefully, and ſo as not to apply the froth too freely on the under

der ſide of the leaf: at the ſame time it will be neceſſary to give the ſtem of the plant a ſlight bruſhing in the ſame manner. During this operation you muſt have a pot of ſcald-

ing water ſtanding near you, in which you muſt occaſionally work about and clean your bruſh. You muſt be very cautious, in dreſſing your plants, not to ſuffer the leaſt web to be left about them.

them. To prevent this, you muſt be very accurate in your obſervation, and chooſe out fine clear days for that purpoſe. If you find the leaſt indication of the ſpider's returning, it is

almoſt

almoſt needleſs to ſay the application muſt be repeated: two or three dreſſings will expell them entirely.

The ſame remedy will be very ufeful in extirpating the ſcaly

insect upon vines, orange trees, oleanders, &c. as also in forcing roses or exotick plants. It may be applied without any danger; and I am confident, if the precautions I have given

given are attended to, with certainty of ſucceſs.

FINIS.

MVSEVM
BRITAN
NICVM